

Postsecondary Programs

Title: Tech Prep

The Tech Prep program is defined as a program that provides technical preparation in a career field such as electronics technology, applied science, a mechanical, industrial or practical art or trade, agriculture, health occupations, and business or applied economics. Elements of a Tech Prep program:

- includes an articulation agreement;
- combines at least 2 years of secondary and 2 years of postsecondary education in a sequential course of study without duplication of coursework;
- integrates academic and technical education and, if appropriate and available, work-based learning;
- provides technical preparation for careers;
- builds student competence in core academic and technical areas;
- leads to an associate or a baccalaureate degree or a postsecondary certificate in a specific career field;
- leads to placement in appropriate employment or further education;
- explores opportunities to enroll students simultaneously in secondary and postsecondary coursework;
- includes in-service training for teachers and counselors; and,
- must provide equal access to special populations.

Students can use the courses that they successfully complete and had transcribed to fulfill requirements where appropriate. Thus, a student can use the articulated credit to time-shorten a program or to allow more time to enhance skills. Skill-enhanced Tech Prep programs increase the options available to students.

Tech Prep funds may be used to purchase equipment, acquire technical assistance from state and local entities with experience in Tech Prep, and establish articulation agreements with a broader array of postsecondary institutions and employers using distance learning and educational technology. Tech Prep funds may not be used to replace state and local funds for professional-technical education and activities. Tech Prep funds are managed and distributed by the Idaho Division of Professional Technical Education in accordance with the State Plan required by Federal legislation and approved by the State Board for Professional-Technical Education.

Federal Regulations for Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act are located at either www.pte.idaho.gov or www.ed.gov.

It is important that accurate counts of Tech Prep students are used in order to build capacity at the technical colleges to accommodate Tech Prep students that are now signing up.

Definitions for counting postsecondary tech prep students in Idaho.

Post Secondary Tech Prep Student: A student will be counted as a tech prep student at an Idaho post-secondary institution who meets all of the following criteria.

1. As a secondary student completed a Tech Prep Enrollment form.

2. Participated in any portion of an approved secondary Tech Prep program.
3. Enrolled in an approved 2 year professional-technical program of study at a postsecondary institution
4. Is eligible for articulated/dual credits or advanced placement toward completion of an approved 2 year professional-technical program at a postsecondary institution.

Official counts of technical college Tech Prep students are collected on form 1054S. The dean, associate dean or registrar of the technical colleges signs these forms.

See Tech Prep in the Secondary Programs section for information on counting secondary Tech Prep students.

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